



Lorain County
Rural Wastewater District
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ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TOWNSHIPS AND VILLAGES 2003

As 2003 ended, activities of the LORCO Board of Trustees, Legal Counsel, Engineer, Accountant and Executive Director have increased dramatically. While work was being accomplished to satisfy the funding application criteria of the United States Department of Agriculture for the Phase-I project, other potential wastewater collection projects began popping up and feasibility studies are under way. In recognition of LORCO's site-specific treatment capabilities, flexibility and coordination are two of the most important elements in working with the townships and villages who are earnestly planning for their future. The creation of land use plans is growing in acceptance and an integral part of such plans necessarily includes a plan for effective and viable wastewater collection and treatment.

The acceptance of LORCO's Phase-I preliminary engineering report by the Ohio EPA and the authorization, from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, to move the plan forward has greatly strengthened the behind the scenes effort that has been put into planning for the needs of the citizens of Carlisle and Eaton Townships.

An unprecedented program was devised to identify the real potential of residential and commercial development in the unincorporated areas that LORCO serves. Identified probable development provides information for the most appropriate final wastewater service design and allows for the prediction of significant cost savings throughout the Phase-I project. This program is not only useful to LORCO, but to other utilities as well and most importantly to township zoning boards. Township Trustees and their zoning boards have the real power to plan for the future and LORCO provides an additional tool for their use. Citizen participation at planning meetings is essential to guide development and maintain the locally desired look for the township or village in the future.

Ongoing publication of LORCO's efforts through monthly newspaper articles and continuous updates on the web site www.lorco.org has resulted in a better informed public. Over 200 news articles are on file and the web site has been in existence for more than a year with more than two thousand contacts. In addition a recent individual homeowner mailing went out to more than one thousand, five hundred homes in the Carlisle and Eaton Township areas. This mailing was designed to bring the potential benefited users up-to-date and provide a way to fit LORCO into their future building plans. The results were strongly positive and LORCO is preparing to serve the future needs of home building in this area.

Phase-I system construction could start sometime in 2004. All affected property owners and officials will be kept apprised of the project's progress.

The requirements and responsibilities of a utility project, such as LORCO's Phase-I project, are very involved. All actions by LORCO's Board of Trustees and the Administration are guided by one or more of the following: the Ohio Revised Code, the Federal Clean Water Act administered by NOACA, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Lorain County General Health District and the Court of Common Pleas. The guidelines written by these agencies are precise and direct and give strong evidence that providing central wastewater collection and treatment to high-density portions of rural Lorain County is the best course of action for its current and future population.

Given the reality of a high percentage of septic tank failures throughout Lorain County and the Maximum Daily Pollution Load to the Black River, the process of today's homeowners taking charge, through their local governments, of what tomorrow will offer to the next generation is responsible and respectable. Our future generations have to live, grow and prosper in Lorain County and our duty, in passing, is to leave the land, water, and air better than we found it.

The availability of a clean, high quality water system for rural and village residents of Lorain County over the past three decades has proven to be both healthful and beneficial. Provision of a clean rural wastewater system will enhance and raise the benefits to a new level.

If you have any questions regarding the Rural Lorain County Wastewater District call 647-4882 or visit us on-line at www.lorco.org and use the e-mail capability.

Very truly yours,

James R. McConnell, President